

# Stakeholder Brief

Special Edition

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## Transforming community health services - Update 2 Initial proposals for Transforming Community Services

The NHS Worcestershire Board met informally on 17th February to agree some initial draft proposals and ideas regarding the future of community services. This work relates to the wide ranging review of the Primary Care Trust Provider Arm that was announced at the end of January.

Proposals were required to be submitted to the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) today (19th February) and will then be subject to an assurance test to make sure they meet the wider objectives for this work and are consistent with what's happening nationally across the NHS. Within Worcestershire further work will continue to revise the details and progress towards the NHS Worcestershire Board approving some final proposals before the end of March. Any final proposals that are submitted would then be subject to full public and staff consultation.

### The initial submission to the SHA proposes that:

- Breast screening and certain specialist nursing teams (eg diabetes and COPD) transfer to the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Community nursing and therapy services are more closely aligned with GPs. More work is planned over the coming weeks to work out how this can be best achieved.
- An entirely new organisation is created to manage all of the other Provider Arm services (including Community Hospitals) and the services that are currently provided by the Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. This - subject to further discussions with the Mental Health Trust - would include a proposal that the existing Mental Health Trust be dissolved and its services transferred to the new organisation.

It was also agreed that there should be further work and exploration of how services such as Sexual Health and Palliative Care could be more appropriately managed in future. A full analysis of the care pathway implications will also need to be undertaken over the next few weeks to support the final submissions that go forward.

**Paul Bates, Chief Executive of NHS Worcestershire, is pleased with the direction of the review to date but is keen to stress that there is still much work to do and said,**

“ We are grateful for all of the input that we have had to date from staff, stakeholders and partners. I am determined that we use this process to get more integration and to improve the quality of health services in Worcestershire. To get to that point we still have an enormous amount of work to do. These initial ideas set out a general direction of travel but we must be prepared to keep an open mind over the coming weeks as more information becomes available. ”

“ A key part of the proposals at this stage is to form a new community and mental health organisation. The new organisation would need to have a culture and capability that enabled it to deliver some of our key policies such as care closer to home, network and locality working and closer integration with primary and secondary care. We also envisage real opportunities for closer working with Worcestershire County Council through this option. ”

One of the options considered by the Board was the transfer of community hospitals to the management of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, or that a pilot should be initiated under which one of the hospitals would be managed by the Acute Trust under a franchise arrangement. This is, however, not being pursued further at this stage.

**Paul Bates added that,**

“ The Board recognised that this option was supported by the Acute Hospitals Trust and by some GPs. It did not, however, have the broader support of other stakeholders, including the County Council and PCT staff, and the Board advised that it could not support any such initiative at this stage.

Next steps for this process are for the SHA to feedback their views on the initial proposals and then for the NHS Worcestershire Board to agree the final submission before the end of March. In the meantime the process of informal consultation and canvassing opinions and views will continue, as will work on refining some of the options under consideration. ”

**Further briefings will be issued on a regular basis as this work progresses.**

**For more details or to submit any comments for consideration in this process please email [communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk)**

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